

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00

EUR-10 EB-03 OMB-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /070 W

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O R 130845Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8641

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11944

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ENRG, VS, CB

SUBJECT: GVN-GKR OIL DRILLING DISPUTE

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 12246; (B) SAIGON 11891 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC CALLED CHARGE' TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS ONE OF WHICH WAS THE OIL DRILLING DISPUTE.

2. BAC SAID THE GVN EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH WAS MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THIS MORNING'S DEMONSTRATIONS AND POSSIBLE THREATS AGAINST VIETNAMESE IN CAMBODIA BUT HE THOUGHT HE HAD MANAGED TO CALM HIS PEOPLE DOWN. HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO HELP SORESTALL POSSIBLE VIOLENCE AGAINST VIETNAMESE IN CAMBODIA.

2. BAC ADDED THAT AS SOON AS THE COMPANY HAS MOVED THE RIG HE PLANS TO ISSUE A VERY CONCILIATORY STATEMENT DENYING THAT THERE EVER HAD BEEN ANY ULTIMATUM OR VIETNAMESE THREAT OF FORCE AND
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EXPRESSING THE GVN'S DESIRE TO SETTLE THE ISSUE OF THE DISPUTED

AREA AMICABLY. HE HOPES A KHMER TECHNICAL GROUP CAN COME TO SAIGON SOON FOR THIS PURPOSE. (FYI ONLY: ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD NOT BE PASSED ON TO THE KHMER BAC INDICATED THAT A SETTLEMENT IN EFFECT SPLITTING THE DISPUTED AREA BY DRAWING A MEDIAN LINE THROUGH IT WOULD BE THE OUTCOME HE HOPES FOR. END FYI)

3. BAC, LIKE THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY WITH WHOM WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE MATTER YESTERDAY, IS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO AVOID PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD REPRESENT THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT DISPUTE OVER THE RIG AS A "VICTORY" OVER THE KHMER. (FYI: WE HAVE MADE THIS POINT REPEATEDLY TO VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS. END FYI) LEHMANN

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